



The Joyful Mysteries

What do we discover about the family in each mystery?

1. The First Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation

The angel Gabriel was sent to a young woman, Mary, who was engaged to Joseph. The angel said to her: “Rejoice Mary, God is with you, He loves you very much. You will have a son and you will name him Jesus. He will grow up and He will be called Son of the Most High” (Lk 1:26-32).

We discover that God Himself is a family:

“The triune God is a communion of love, and the family is its living reflection... Our God in his deepest mystery is not solitude, but a family, for he has within himself fatherhood, sonship and the essence of the family, which is love.” (AL 11).

* In what moments of our family history have we felt that God is present among us?

2. The Second Joyful Mystery: The Visitation

Mary was going to visit her cousin Elizabeth and her husband Zacharias. Elizabeth was pregnant and full of the Holy Spirit said to Mary: “Blessed are you among woman and blessed also is the child that you carry in your womb”. She responded: “I praise the Lord who has done marvels for me” (Lk 1:39-45).

We discover that joy is shared among all the members of the family.

“When a loving person can do good for others, or sees that others are happy, they themselves live happily and in this way give glory to God, for “God loves a cheerful giver”... The family must always be a place where, when something good happens to one of its members, they know that others will be there to celebrate it with them.” (AL 110).

* What members of our family have been the presence of Jesus to us?

3. The Third Joyful Mystery: The Nativity

Mary and Joseph left for Bethlehem. It was there that Jesus was born, they wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, for there was no room at the inn. There were some

shepherds, to whom an angel appeared, saying: “I bring you news of great joy. Today is born the Saviour, the Son of God”. Then the shepherds went to adore him (Lk 2:4-11).

We discover that children are loved unconditionally in the family

“Children are a gift. Each one is unique and irreplaceable... We love our children because they are children, not because they are beautiful, or look or think as we do, or embody our dreams... The love of parents is the means by which God our Father shows his own love. He awaits the birth of each child, accepts that child unconditionally, and welcomes him or her freely” (AL 170).

* How did you feel when you discovered that you were to become parents? What was it like to welcome children to the world?

4. The Fourth Joyful Mystery: The Presentation in the Temple

Mary and Joseph, in obedience to the law, went to the Temple to give thanks for the birth of Jesus. There they encountered two elderly people, Anna and Simeon, who loved God very much and rejoiced at their meeting Jesus, the Saviour (cf Lk 2:22, 28, 36-38).

We discover that every family is part of the society and the Church.

“The family is the primary setting for socialization, since it is where we first learn to relate to others, to listen and share, to be patient and show respect, to help one another and live as one... In the family, we learn closeness, care and respect for others. We break out of our fatal self-absorption and come to realize that we are living with and alongside others who are worthy of our concern, our kindness and our affection.” (cf AL 276).

* Which communities are important for our family? With which ones do we share our life?

5. The Fifth Joyful Mystery: The Finding in the Temple

When Jesus was twelve years old, he travelled with his parents to Jerusalem. Joseph and Mary went back but Jesus stayed in Jerusalem without his parents realising it. For three days they looked for him and upon finding him, his mother said to him: “Son, why have you done this to me?”, to which Jesus responded: “Why were you looking for me? Don’t you know that I must be about my Father’s business?” (Lk 2:41-49).

We discover that parents care for their children and respect their freedom.

“We cannot control every situation that a child may experience... If parents are obsessed with always knowing where their children are and controlling all their movements, they will seek only to dominate space... What is most important is the ability lovingly to help them grow in freedom, maturity, overall discipline and real autonomy. Only in this way will children come to possess the wherewithal needed to fend for themselves and to act intelligently and prudently whenever they meet with difficulties.” (AL 261).

* Parents: do you remember some of the mischief you got up to as a child? Share it with the family.